What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

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SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

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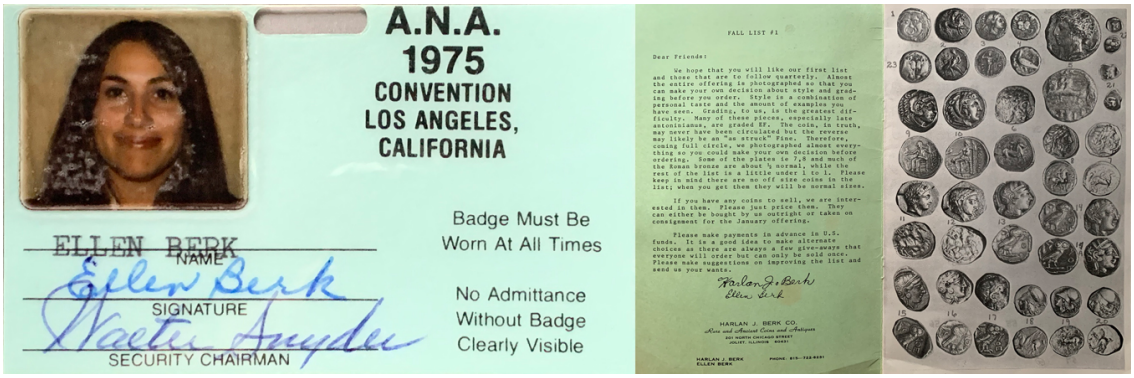

Newsletter #136:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Yesterday was Thanksgiving for the Americans. I went with my family to have dinner with my mother and other various family and friends. When I arrived at my mother's house, she dragged me down to her basement to look through some boxes. My mom excitedly pulled out three pieces that she was sure I would enjoy to see. There was her first ANA badge from 1975. She was so young then, not even 30 years old. The next one was what she believed the very first mailed catalog my father and she had sent out. The last piece was priceless. A small diary that detailed her first trip to Zurich, Switzerland with my father in 1974 to attend a Bank Leu auction. She describes coming into Zurich with coins and how the coins were held there because they she or my father didn't have the money to get them legally in the country. She later described meeting the very charming Leo Mildenberg and how very kind he was to her. How he went out of his way to say hello to her at the Baur au Lac hotel before the auction began. How the auction was conducted in four languages: German, Italian, French and English and that the bidding was fierce. The highest hammer went to an Athenian Dekadrachm at 450,000 Swiss.

After seeing these items I realized how little has actually changed in the coin business some 44 years later. The funny thing is that many of the people that my mother knew

back in the 1970's are still active in the business. That is the wonderful thing about our business, our hobby. All the things that my mother showed me from her past were directly relatable and relevant to my own life today.

I am really lucky to be involved in such an amazing trade.

The auction scene this week is a little less busy. The time between Thanksgiving and New Years typically is about getting ready for the NY International Coin Show and the week of auctions that takes place. Next week I will be attending the San Francisco bourse. I'm pleased to be returning for the 2nd year since Scott Griffin took over control of the nearly defunct show. Shortly after the SF bourse, I will head out to Lancaster, PA to the offices of CNG and view their highly anticipated Triton auction. I knew that the week of auctions and show in NY would be busy so I'm getting a head start on viewing the lots.

Here is what is happening this week:

Bertolami E-Live 77 (Dec 1)

I don't routinely bid in Bertolami auctions but occasionally I see materia that interest me. This week I noticed that they have an auction that is very heavy in Greek bronzes. There are 1,361 lots in the entire auction but the first 633 are all varieties of bronzes. All have incredibly low starting prices. They are called "collection" but there is no discernable pedigree information written. In any case, if you are a collector of bronzes and are looking for a particular type this auction might be worth perusing. There were several varieties being offered that I rarely, if ever, see.

Hess Divo 338 (Live auction in Zurich on Dec 3)

Speaking of the Baur au Lac, Hess Divo, will hold their annual auction there on December 3. They have two catalogs, but the first is Swiss coinage will likely not interest the majority of my clients. Catalog 338 starts with 57 Greek coins; several with decent pedigrees. The auction also has a nice group of Celtic coins available. Celtic coins seem to be the flavor of the month for several auction houses, including Roma and Peus which both have had extensive celtic coins on offer in recent auctions. There are additionally some lovely Roman coins in the catalog. I noticed a very nice Judaea Capta bronze under Vespasian that came from the Shoshana collection. The Shoshana sale was hosted by Heritage and held in Manhattan close to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was a fancy affair and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Künker ELive 57 (Dec 3)

I recently attended the Künker live auctions in Osnabrück in early October. Those auctions have no web component available. Some might think that Künker isn't very modern in their approach to auctions. For those that think that they don't touch online auctions, this proves otherwise. Künker ELive 57 on December 3rd has 745 lots on offer. The coins offered aren't typically the highest grade or quality but they provide a nice way to get many (not all) pedigreed pieces that the Künker brand provides.

CNG EAuction 457 (Dec 4)

Have you noticed that CNG has completely changed their electronic auction format? The old method meant hoping you bid enough just before the lot closed. It never failed that someone was quicker though and one had to bid without any real control. Well those days are over. CNG has now partnered with Auction Mobility and they have a great new site with the ability to bid in an easier way. You can even get the Auction Mobility app on your phone and bid on the go. It should really make bidding in CNG a breeze for most. Considering that Triton is just around the corner, they have some decent pieces on offer. There are 621 lots in this auction.

Speaking of Triton, check out Triton XXIII, that will be held on January 14 in NYC during the New York International. There are four parts to Triton XXIII. The first has 326 Greek coins, second is the continuation of Greek and going through Roman Imperial. Part three is Roman Imperial through world coins and finally part four is the continuation of world, British medals and group large lots. This auction is a knock out and I am looking forward to attending and winning tons of coins for my clients (hopefully a few for me too for stock). Remember to get in touch soon if you want me to get a preview look at your lots in PA when I go exclusively for viewing. If you don't get to me before then do not worry. I will view again just prior to the auction in NY but I hope to get the really intensive viewing out of the way before.

San Francisco Bourse (6-7 December)

I'm looking forward to returning to the Bay area and participating in the SF Bourse. It is a small affair but wonderful to see some of the nicest customers out on the west coast and surrounding areas. If you haven't attended the show think about coming. It is small enough to get through everything and most of the larger auctions will bring their material for the NY International auctions so you can preview it instead of waiting until January rolls around and we are all cramming to get viewing in. More to come on my table number and the events surrounding the bourse.

Coin of the Week

Tiberius. 14-37 AD, Rome
AR Denarius, 3.87g (18mm, 1h). Laureate head of emperor to r. / His mother, Livia, seated right on chair with scepter in one hand.

Pedigree: Ex Sternberg 6, Zürich, 1976, lot 438. Ex Credit Suisse, Bern, FPL 24, Dec 1977, lot 24

References: RIC 30

Grade: Beautiful sharp strike and nicely toned. Mint State

Price: $2,650

re1113

Buy Coin

The Tiberius "Tribute Penny" is a coin that is popular not only among collectors, but also among Christians. While Tiberius was not directly responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, he also was not without guilt. Tiberius was emperor and placed Pontius Pilate as Roman prefect of Judea, who condemned Christ to death. The Tribute Penny is biblically significant because it was the coin that was shown to Jesus when he made his famous speech about "rendering unto Caesar". Tiberius struck only a few types in silver, however, the portrait styles can vary dramatically. Some have a portrait more reminiscent to his step-father and first emperor, Augustus. Others appear to be more in-line with what Tiberius actually looked like. This coin is more like the latter. His mother is on the reverse of the coin. Livia was a strong woman in her time and was considered to be a strong advisor to her second husband Augustus. Her first husband, Tiberius Claudius Nero, was forced to divorce Livia when Augustus became smitten with her while still married to Scribonia.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-empire/dx43z791pxuruldg8buezdjjqtdvap?rq=re1113

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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